13th November 1961]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The percentage of literacy for the intervening years between census years has not been worked out. The percentage of literacy for the Madras State according to the 1951 census, was 20.3 and according to the 1961 census provisional figures 30.2.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR FAMINE RELIEF WORK IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The next item relates to calling attention under rule 41. The hon. Members, Sri N. K. Palanisami and Sri A. Senapathi Gounder are not in their seats. The hon. Member, Sri K. G. Palaniswamy Gounder can read the notice.

SRI K. G. PALANISWAMY GOUNDER : கனம் உதவி சபா நாயகர் அவர்களே, அசெம்பிளி விதிகள் 41-வது பிரிவின் கீழ் ஒரு அவசர பொது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த விஷயத்தை கனம் ரெவன்யூ அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்பு கிறேன். தாராபுரம், பல்லடம் தாலூகாக்களிலே வருடா வருடம் பருவ மழை தவறிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த வருடத்திலேயும் மழைக்குறைவினல் பல பகுதிகள் பஞ்சத்தால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டுள் ளன. 9-30 a.m

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member can read the notice and he need not make a speech.

SRI K. G. PALANISWAMY GOUNDER : பருவ மழை தவறியதன் காரணத்தால் தாராபுரம், பல்லடம் வட்டாரங்களில் பஞ்ச நிவாரண வேலையை மேற்கொள்ளுவது சம்பந்தமான ஒரு அவசர பொது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த விஷயத்தை கனம் ரெவன்யூ அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்பு கிறேன்.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, Palladam and Dharapuram taluks are known to be the distress pockets in the Coimbatore district. Even last year, distress conditions were reported and Government issued orders allotting sums of Rs. 2 lakhs and Re. 1 lakh respectively for execution of road and pond works in these taluks. Government also ordered the execution of the work of Parambikulam Main Canal in Dharapuram taluk. The Collector has since been permitted to draw upon the unutilised sum out of these 3 lakhs of rupees sanctioned last year during the current year 1961–62. Apart from this, another sum of Rs. 3 lakhs have been sanctioned during this year for deepening of drinking water wells in the district. Pond works which would ultimately increase the water level of adjacent irrigation wells have also been taken up under the Special Minor Irrigation Programme. As a substantial programme of permanent utility and of imme-

diate employment potential, Government have recently ordered the execution of the excavation of the Parambikulam Main Canal from Palladam to Kangayam.

The Collector has toured this area intensively and is watching the situation closely and also keeping Government informed of the developments. As the hon. Members know, since this notice under rule 41 was given, there have been rains in these two taluks and the cultivators have started ploughing their lands.

Though there has been a partial failure of monsoon during the season and a dimunition in the area cultivated, famine conditions do not prevail in these taluks. There has been no marked increase in the foodgrain prices; nor any unusual movement of cattle, even though these two taluks are not surplus in fodder even in normal years. No unusual migration of people has taken place except the normal movement of agricultural labourers due to attractive wages for work at the Parambikulam Project. There has also been no perceptible contraction of credit.

It is a fact that the water-supply position, both for drinking as well as for irrigation, has not been satisfactory in these two taluks. This difficulty has been felt over the past few years. Government have taken immediate temporary measures necessary as well as permanent works to meet this problem. In Vellakoil and Palladam Panchayats where there was acute scarcity of drinking water, water-supply by lorries was arranged; 194 and 285 drinking water wells were deepened at a cost of Rs. 1.2 lakhs and Rs. 2.5 lakhs respectively during 1959–60 and 1960–61. This programme, as mentioned earlier, is being extended this year also. Apart from this, the Block Development Officers are taking up deepening of wells under the "Village Works Grant". The Collector has given directions to both the Development and Revenue Staff to go ahead with these works to the extent necessary. I have already referred to the programme of pond works taken up under the Special Minor Irrigation Programme to meet the conditions of poor water-supply in the irrigation wells.

I may tell the hon. Member that the Government are fully aware of and is watching the seasonal conditions and that all steps necessary to meet such distress conditions as may arise are being taken and will continue to be taken.

III.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS BUILDING (LEASE AND RENT CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL, 1961.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Amendment Bill, 1961.